

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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ICU--AN INTERNATIONAL DREAM COME TRUE

ICU, the realization of a dream first conceived 50 years ago, began its second year of academic life this spring. What is it that sets this "International Christian University" apart from the other 479 universities and colleges in Japan--a group which includes 44 "mission schools"? There are a number of reasons why ICU must be regarded as unique, but perhaps first among these is the fact that it is international.

Half of ICU's full time professors will always be non-Japanese--the 20 eminent scholars from the U.S., Canada, China and Switzerland who are already teaching there will be joined next year by additional professors from Germany and France. 28 students of Chinese, Indian Korean and American background are already enrolled, along with the 325 Japanese students. The number of foreign students is expected to increase as the university develops. ICU is of course co-educational, and the 104 women students at present on campus form 28% of the student body--a higher percentage than in any other coeducational institution in Japan.

In a land where student bodies often number over 10,000, ICU plans to keep its enrollment to 700 in the college, plus an additional 300 in the graduate schools of Education, Social Work and Public Administration which will be set up after the completion of the college. (Under Japanese law, graduate schools must be attached to undergraduate institutions). 90% of the students already enrolled are from the upper 10% of their high school classes. The scholastic standards at ICU will equal or exceed those of the heavily subsidized government universities, which up to this time have always led the field in Japan. The 4 year undergraduate program will lead to a Bachelors degree in Humanities, Natural Science or Social Science. There is also a language institute with a program of intensive courses in English language studies, and research institutes of education, nutrition and rural welfare.

Japanese students think nothing of spending 2 to 4 hours a day on trains commuting to college. Only a small percentage of students at most universities live in dormitories or near the campus. ICU has been founded on a completely residential basis. All of the faculty and students will live on the campus and the time and energy so often devoted to commuting will be freed for full participation in the international community life of the University.

The beautiful 365 acre campus provides adequate space for the agricultural program at the university. The dairy herd of 34 pure-bred

Jerseys, the 19 swine, 500 chickens, 6 sheep and the farms and rice paddies contribute their produce to the dining halls, and in addition provide the foundation for developing the rural welfare and nutrition research program. ICU is located in Mitaka Shi--over an hour away from Tokyo--a country location which leaves it close enough to draw on the resources of the capital city, but far enough away so that the interest and time of the students and faculty can be centered on the University without the distractions of city life.

But there is more to the uniqueness of ICU than these surface differences. What is it which has inspired the Japanese in the face of dire economic hardships to contribute 165 million yen (US\$460,000) toward the founding of ICU--95% of these contributions from non-Christians? Why has the National Council of Churches in the USA raised thousands of dollars in the US, and its member boards contributed personnel.

What causes men like Gen. MacArthur, John Foster Dulles, an ambassador Joseph C. Grew to give their wholehearted support to a fledgling university? What draws an eminent theologian like Dr. Emil Brunner from Zurich to a University which does not even have a department of theology?

The answer lies in the vowed purpose of ICU to train men and women to serve God and humanity. Each entering freshman student is required to sign a "Student Pledge" in which he or she promises to respect the universal human rights. This does not mean that all of the students are Christians--at present less than half of them are--but they are young men and women who are deeply concerned with the problems of world peace, brotherhood, and human suffering. Like students everywhere, many of them are searching for a truth by which they can guide their lives.

The 100% Christian faculty and the general religious atmosphere of the University are a guarantee that a definite Christian influence will be exerted on the thinking and behavior of all the students, even though no actual proselyting is done by the University as such. In the words of Dr. Hachiro Yuasa, president of ICU, "ICU has promised to make its contributions toward the realization of a Christian and democratic way of life in the new Japan by training the right kind of new leaders ICU is basically a university of tomorrow ..(when) .. all nations must learn to share their best for the common good of all humanity." Training young men and women for these tasks is ICU's goal, and in reaching for it she is commanding the support of both Christians, who know that this too is part of God's plan for the world, and of non-Christians who, while lacking the Christian's faith, still respect his ideals.

CONFERENCES

The Family Life Youth Conference on June 30 discussed the problems of marriage, love and sex. 25 young people from the YM, YW, Anglican Church, Aikai Gakuen, Waseda and St. Paul Univ. listened to lectures on these subjects and carried on a discussion centered on the following points: 1. Society must understand the need of young men and women in modern society for each others companionship, and it must help provide more opportunities for this. 2. What is the meaning of youthful associations, and what special relationships are involved. 3. Choosing a marriage partner--the difficulty of finding a Christian partner, in a society which is 90% non-Christian. The Church must cooperate with young people in

helping them find Christian mates. (A recent survey in the Tokyo Kyoku showed that of Christians who had married recently, only 20% had found Christian mates.)

The Christian Student Lay Leaders Training Conference will be held at Shuyokai on July 20-24. About 100 student representatives from all Japan will discuss social problems, problems of Universities, problems of the Christian church in Japan.

Main speakers: Keichiro Shimada, professor of Sociology at Doshisha; Kazo Kitamori, professor of systematic theology at Tokyo Union Theological Seminary.

There is at present no Christian Student Unit in the Kyodan, and this conference will consider the possibility of forming a national Kyodan Christian Student Organization.

The Kyodan General Evangelism Committee will hold a conference at Nikko from Aug. 11-13 to plan a nationwide evangelistic program to culminate in 1959, the centennial year. Leaders from various parts of the country will attend as well as the regular committee members.

A conference on the Mission of Young People will be sponsored by the Kyodan Sept. 22-23 at Aoyama Gakuin in Tokyo. About 700 representatives from university, highschool, business and rural youth groups are expected. The main speakers will be Dr. Zenta Watanabe, retired professor of Old Testament at Aoyama, who is now working on a bible commentary for the Christian literature society; Hidenobu Kuwada, president of Tokyo Union Theol. Sem.; and Dr. Nobunari Ukai, a professor of constitution at Tokyo University.

PRESBYTERIANS SPONSOR EXPLORATORY CONFERENCE IN HONG KONG

An unofficial conference to discuss the mutual interchange of missionaries among Far Eastern countries will be sponsored in Hong Kong from July 22-27 by the Presbyterian Board. This is the first move to begin to adopt some of the principles advocated at the Willingen conference on Missions two years ago. Representatives from Japan, Korea, Thai, Indonesia and the Philippines will attend and participate in the discussion. The hope is that in the future it will gradually be possible to replace the concept of "foreign missionaries" with the larger idea of "ecumenical missionaries" of the world church. Presbyterian missionaries are now called "fraternal workers" in keeping with this concept. If any definite conclusions are reached at the conference, they will be referred for consideration to responsible groups for action.

John Smith, Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. will be in charge of the conference. Kozo Kashiwai, vice-moderator of the Kyodan will represent Japan at the conference.

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